

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections in the final action, based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-9 and 16-24 are pending in the application. Claims 10-15 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 16, 21, and 24 are hereby amended without prejudice. The amendments to the claims are supported by the originally filed application at, for example, line 15 of page 6 to line 7 of page 8. Amended claims 1 and 21 are the only pending independent claims.

Claims 1-9 and 16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,924,094 to Sutter (hereinafter "Sutter"). Applicants traverse, as Sutter at least fails to teach or suggest that data in a second set of records is modified instead of modifying data in any record in a first set of records while the encryption status of a base area is altered, as recited in each of amended independent claims 1 and 21.

Sutter discloses that all transactions are made against the local database. Sutter, col. 3, lines 30-44. While Sutter may disclose multiple sets of records, *id.*, col. 9, lines 40-43 (the IDDB is formed from a set of sites which run a given IDDB application), Sutter fails to teach or suggest how data in a second set of records is modified, instead of modifying data in a first set of records, while encryption status is altered. While transactions might be interrupted by network problems, *id.*, col. 3, lines 21-24, Sutter does not teach or suggest the interruption of modifications to a first set of records, or any set of records, for the purposes of allowing alteration of encryption status.

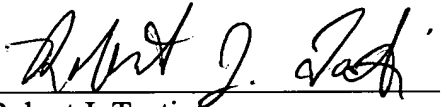
Also, to the extent that Sutter addresses encryption, Sutter discloses that a record is kept of every encryption key used, encryption keys are generated pseudo-randomly for each site at runtime, and that columns may be encrypted with different encryption algorithms and/or keys.

Id. col. 43, lines 45-55, col. 59, lines 11-16. Sutter does not, however, teach or suggest that encryption status is altered.

In view of the foregoing, applicants request entry of this response, reconsideration of all of the rejections, and allowance of all pending claims in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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